

The Oscillator

The Club...wants to be instrumental in helping the prospective and established Amateur to become a proficient communicator in the Amateur Radio Service.

Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club

Est: 1978

KK7TN Paragraphs Don Stettler KK7TN

OTVARC SPOTLIGHT:

- Club Meeting - October 13 - 10 Meters is ALIVE
- Lunch Bunch - October 24
- Board Meeting - October 27
- Club Meeting - November 10 - DXpedition to Costa Rica
- Board Meeting - November 24
- Lunch Bunch - November 27
- Club Holiday Party - December 8
- Board Meeting - December 22
- Club Meeting - January 12
- Lunch Bunch - January 22
- Board Meeting - January 26

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I added a word to my vocabulary at the September Board of Director's meeting - hysteresis.

Hysteresis is defined as the lagging of an effect behind its cause especially the phenomenon in which the magnetic induction of a ferromagnetic material lags behind the changing magnetic field. Our treasurer, Alvin, KB7VHI, used the word in the context of his reluctance to use online banking.

Coping with change is hard for all of us. It is

human nature to resist change, especially when it happens so rapidly and persistently, even though the changes are for the good. A couple of experiences of late have caused me to reflect on just how much things have changed in our hobby since I became a ham a little over 11 years ago. Since I am a relative new comer to the hobby compared to others in the club I am sure the changes for longer time hams is even greater.

Over the last couple of months I have been encouraging a neighbor to get back into ham radio. His license had lapsed when he was having some

medical difficulties. Because of the time lapsed he had to start over from scratch and take the exams. He took the exam on a Saturday and by the following Thursday his new call sign was posted on the FCC database. Back in 1993 when I passed my technician license it took over two months for the FCC to get word to me that they had granted me a license. Now in the day of the Internet, one can find out in less than a week. Most would agree that this is a good change. Another big change is
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THE PROGRAM - Wednesday, October 13

We meet Wednesday, October 13th, 7:00 pm, at Beaverton Elks' Club, 3500 SW 104th Ave, Beaverton. Guests are always welcome at our meetings.

This month John Mackey KSØF will introduce us to his ten and

six meter repeaters in Portland and suggest ways to use ten meters during the down years of the solar cycle.

Why not come early and enjoy dinner at the Elks' Cafeteria line?

HAMFests**October 9, 2004**

North Kitsap ARC

<http://www.nkarc.org>

Jeff Hasz, KS7H

PO Box 2268

Silverdale, WA 98383

360.638.0775

ks7h@jhasz.com**October 23, 2004**

SWAP-TOBERFEST

Rickreall Oregon

www.swaptoberfest.net

Bud Smith N7BUD

n7bud@arrl.net**19 Feb 2005**

25th Annual Salem HamFair

Salem Repeater Association

<http://www.qsl.net/w7sra/>

Denis Miller, WC7M

PO Box 17803

Salem, OR 97305

503.507.6523

LUNCH BUNCH**Breakfast at 8:30 AM**

Sunday, October 24th

Old Country Buffet

13500 SW Pacific Hwy

in Tigard

Enjoy a **BREAKFAST**
Lunch Bunch this month

Questions or comments

Julie Landers KD7GQW

503.646.1546

Is there a location you'd like
to use for a Lunch Bunch?**Paragraphs**, from page 1

in the equipment we use.

About a year ago, the radio I had been using as my base station 2-meter rig, a Radio Shack HTX-212, quit working. I sent it in for repair but it could not be fixed because the part needed was no longer available. I really liked the HTX-212 because it was so easy to use. As I recall, when I got it I took it out of the box, hooked it up to a power supply and an antenna, tuned in a frequency, adjusted the squelch, and I was on the air. Over the past year I have been using a radio that I intended to be dedicated to packet radio that has required me to unhook and re-hook the microphone depending on the mode. A few weeks ago I purchased an Icom IC-208H. Initially I got on the air in about the same way as with the HTX-212. But this time, signal reports were that I was weak and sounded tinny. Even though I didn't want to I was forced to read the owner's manual. Reading it I discovered that I had to go to a menu and change some settings my HTX-212 didn't even have. In the long run my new radio is a much better radio with 512 memory channels rather than the 20 my old radio has.

As difficult as it is to change we often benefit if we will submit to what is requires of us to change.

Happy Halloween!

Don

VE Testing Services, Carl WS7L

VE testing sessions are offered in even numbered months. We have one session left in 2004 on December 4th at 1:00 pm. Our regular sessions are held at Hillsboro's Ronler Acres Fire Station across from Hillsboro Stadium on Evergreen Parkway. It is best to pre-register for the exams. Contact Carl, WS7L, at ws7l@arrl.net or by phone at 503.629.5796.

For upgrades, bring your current license (and a photo copy of it) along with two forms of identification (one government issued with a photo) and your exam fee, currently \$12.00.

On October 2nd, we tested seven candidates and had a 100% success rate! Two hams upgraded to General Class with code exams, another candidate went from no license to General Class. We have four new technician licensees. Congratulations to **Benton Johnson N7OGM** on his upgrade to Extra Class!

Thanks to **Richard KD7GIE**, **Stan K7TNA**, and **Everett W6ABM** for serving as our VE Team.

A Little Gun Goes Contesting, Carl, WS7L

I'm a radio wimp - the 98 lb. weakling of the ham bands. Like most hams on HF, I have a modest station - a 100 W transceiver running to a dipole up about 40 ft. And it isn't even an honest horizontal dipole anymore. Ever since our big oak fell down in that heavy, wet snow we had last winter, it's been a sloper. With no 100 ft. tower, no stacked Yagi antennas, no 1.5 kW amplifier, I have no business being on the HF bands during a contest, right? Wrong! I tried it recently and found out that contesting with even a wimpy station can be a lot of fun.

I picked up the October '97 issue of QST and read the article "An Average Op's Guide to Contesting Fun" by Kirk Kleinschmidt, NT0Z. He points out that there are only so many "big gun" stations. Once they've all worked each other, they need US, the little guys, to rack up the big scores. Not only do they not detest our mere presence, they actually WANT contacts with us!

Armed with this and a few other tips from Kirk's article, I fired up the station for the last few hours of the ARRL CW Sweepstakes at about 1820Z on Sunday 02 Nov. '03. Within an hour I had 11 contacts and 11 multipliers. (In this contest, each ARRL or RAC section counts as a multiplier.) By the end of the contest at 0300Z Monday I had 105 contacts and 47 of 79 possible sections worked, reaching a peak rate of 20 QSOs/hr as my skills returned with the practice.

But what about phone? A puny station can put out an audible signal on CW but would have no business being on the bands during an SSB contest, right? I had two weeks to wait before I could find out in the SSB Sweepstakes. I was able to work (i.e. play) both days, netting 164 contacts and 60 of 79 sections. My best hour was 2300Z Saturday when I made 23 contacts on 20 meters, most of them new multipliers. 43 states plus 4 provinces and the Virgin Islands went into the log that weekend.

So a modest station CAN make a reasonable rate of contacts in a contest. Between the two weekends I worked 46 states and 66 of 79 sections. I won't score way up there with the big boys, of course, but I had bushels of fun. Even the kids got to help. They keyed in some of the log entries during the SSB contest, and later drew a US map and wrote all the call signs in the states where they were worked. A major benefit for me was the chance to brush up my CW contest skills, which deteriorate pretty badly from one Field Day to the next.

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TRAVELER'S

For information about The Travelers' contact Betty Mickley N7REX at 503.642.1284 or by email at n7rex@teleport.com

HAMTASTIC ADVENTURES

Hello, my name is Larry Mahlberg AAOBY. I've started an international amateur radio group on Yahoo Groups called HAMTASTIC ADVENTURES.

This group is dedicated to the wonderful hobby of amateur radio. Whether you are a Ham radio operator or aspire to become one, this group is for you!

Ham radio allows a person to contact other radio operators within your country, as well as countries all over the world.

The modes are anything from the most basic, such as Morse Code, to more sophisticated Digital Modes.

Ham radio requires a license in order to use the on-air privileges. I will provide you with a list of resources that will be very helpful in obtaining the radio license. What does Ham Radio mean to you?

Tell us and we will include it in this group!

Give our group a try. Join us by sending a message to:

HamtasticAdventures-subscribe@yahoo.com

Rick Banton KD7THV Elected Trustee

Rick Banton KD7THV stood for election to fill the unexpired term as Trustee vacated by the resignation of JD Fort K7JDF. The election was held at the September 8th club meeting.

Rick was elected by unanimous ballot. We welcome him to our Board.

The Elections Committee is currently working to present a slate of names for election of four Officers and two trustees to serve beginning January, 2005.

FREE No Code Ham Classes, Janet WB7FJC

Looking for a fun activity?

Want disaster preparedness skills on your resume?

Just want to be prepared for the worst?

Have we got a deal for you!

Attend a FREE "No-Code" Ham Radio Class!

Three Saturdays:

October 16, 23 and November 6, 2004
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue Station 67
13810 SW Farmington Road
Beaverton

No course fee.
No text book.

Download the Technician Exam
pool questions and answers from
www.ARRL.org.

Sponsored by the Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio
Club (OTVARC). For more information, contact: Janet Bell
at 503-648-4147 or wb7fjc@arrrl.net

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Happy October Birthday

- 1 Bob KB7MFD
- 3 Richard W7QMD
- 9 Agnes KD7VDI
- 13 Ron K7GX
- 14 Tom KA7NAM
- 15 Richard KD7THV
- 16 Bud KB7NUO
- 17 Bud KC7PS
- 22 Gus KC7XB
Richard KB7EWX
Sam N7KJN
- 23 Brendan KD7LAH
- 24 Tom N7UBT
- 25 Jerry KD7PYK
- 27 Leo KD7OHC
- 28 Carl WS7L

Little Gun (from Page 3)

A few contests during the year will keep my ears in tune, and that will translate to better OTVARC rankings on Field Day.

Being a US/Canada event, the Sweepstakes is an excellent opportunity for a small station. It's like Field Day without the tents. However, a puny station like mine would have no business being on the bands during a DX contest, right?

For example, the CQ World Wide DX Contest (CW) coming up next month...

**Do you know of a business that would benefit from
advertising in THE OSCILLATOR?
If so, let Maureen O'Rourke KA7LAP know.**

CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW? Mel KB7PVW & Linda KC7YTD

Linda & I made a trip down south to Ashland to see a Shakespeare play. Then, we headed east to visit my cousins. I hadn't see one of them for 57 years. We had a great time talking about old times.

Then, off to southeastern Oregon where we had never been before. We went up Leslie Gulch Road (that's above Jordan Valley) to look at rock formations we had heard about. On the way out we saw a side road that had a sign talking about petrified wood and the rules if you found any. That sounded interesting so we took the road north and saw some wonderful scenery from the top of many hills.

I would guess we were about 15 miles in, when we hit a rock, heard a noise and the car started acting like we had a flat tire. Well, when I checked it wasn't a flat tire. The upper ball joint on the right side was broken and the wheel was bent under the car. We were in big trouble. I wouldn't be able to fix it out there. I knew it wouldn't work...but tried the cell phone. Sure enough! No response!

I grabbed the Ham Rig and started trying repeaters in Boise, Idaho. No luck at first so I was searching the band and heard someone. It was Mike KD7QJR on the 146.620- repeater from Emmett, Idaho. He called the sheriff in Malheur County. Help was on the way, but they didn't know where we were. Talking to Mike on the radio with and others listening on scanners we tried to identify land marks. We heard that they had a plane up looking for us.

Three hours later we heard a plane coming from the north. He flew pretty high and I thought he might not see us. I waved a white shirt. Linda used a CD to catch the sun and get the pilot's attention. He circled and came lower and we heard through the Hams that the pilot had spotted us. He reported the GPS location to the County Sheriff.

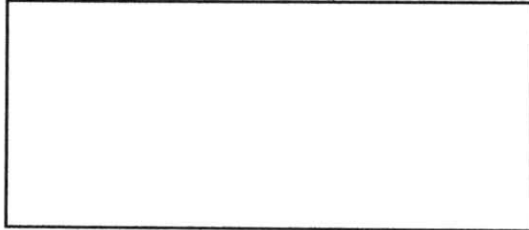
We had seen three vehicles since we turned onto this road. One passed us 5 or 10 minutes before we broke down. Not one car passed us in the eight hours we were on that hill. One hour passed, then two and three hours. Nothing.

It's starting to get dark the and the coyotes were howling. We had plenty of water and some food so if we had to spend the night in the car on the hill we could. Off in the distance we heard a vehicle. The Malheur County Sheriff, Officer Brad Williams, arrived. A second sheriff with the tow truck not far behind arrived, Officer Cliff Hill. By the time the tow truck driver got us hooked up, we had been on the hill for almost eight hours. We called Mike KD7QJR on the Ham Radio and told him we had been found and thanked him for all the help. We were heading down the hill.

They towed the Jimmy to Marsing, Idaho where we spent the night. In the morning I went with the tow truck to Caldwell, Idaho to the G.M. dealer. I was lucky the rental car place was right next door so I rented a car and headed back to pick up Linda. We got a motel in Caldwell waited for the repairs to be done. Two days later all is well. We headed for home stopping to see Linda's aunt in Reith (that's just outside Pendleton) for awhile arriving home late Thursday night.

It sure felt good to pull into that driveway and be home at last. We Hams keep telling everyone that the cell phones may not work when you really need one. I tell them I'm glad I have the Ham Radio in the car if I need help. I guess I didn't think I'd ever need to use it but I'm sure glad it was there or we might still be waiting up on that hill for help.

CLUB MEETING OCTOBER 13TH



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**Oregon Tualatin Valley
Amateur Radio Club**



CLUB INFORMATION

The Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club is a special service club related to ARRL: The National Association for Amateur Radio. We advance the Amateur Radio Service through:

- ⇒ Education and Training of new and licensed amateurs
- ⇒ Public Service and Emergency communication
- ⇒ Hobby nets, contests and meetings
- ⇒ Social events

Membership is available to anyone interested in amateur radio. A license is not required.

Membership dues are \$16/year; Family member(s) of full members at same address \$21/household; Full Time students and members of two years or more at age 70 or older (Life Members) are dues free. See Club Treasurer about purchase of life membership prior to age 70. If you wish to join during the year, dues are pro-rated.

Membership applications may be found on the Club Website or on request from the Treasurer.

The OSCILLATOR is published Monthly for members. The deadline for the November issue is Tuesday, October 26th.

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